

*"Any society that would give up essential liberty to obtain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."*

*~ Benjamin Franklin*

**I am against any further restrictive gun laws in Texas** or in the United States as a whole. Any new laws *will* be used as avenues to further erode the rights and **freedoms** of law abiding citizens and limit their ability to protect themselves, their families & their communities.

I'll refer to my previous Duty submission <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/handouts/C3852020081300001/79e6cca4-8874-452d-abb6-6a84eba1fe24.PDF> on how criminals react better to deterrents *other than the law*, and my recommendation to **better combat gun violence than creating more restrictive laws**.

## **Let's Apply Restrictive Gun Laws To Nature**

In Nature there are two types of animals, predator and prey.

Here in Texas, a mature buck deer is prey to a cougar, a predator. If that buck finds itself cornered and nowhere to run in a life and death situation it can defend itself from the cougar with its horns and sharp hooves.

***If we apply restrictive gun laws to this scenario*** the *entire herd* of deer would eventually be forced to have their hooves shaved dull and all antlers fully removed in a futile attempt to make the wilderness a safer place. All the while the cougars will retain their sharp teeth and claws, and remain predators by nature. Additionally, a defenseless herd of deer simply attracts more predators (consider gun-free zones).

What differentiates human beings from animals is *Self Awareness*. If this herd of deer were self-aware and trapped in a valley outnumbered by predators with virtually no way to defend themselves they would ask ***how could this happen??!***

*Karl Marx once said "Remove one **freedom** per generation, and soon you will have no **freedoms** and no one will have noticed."*

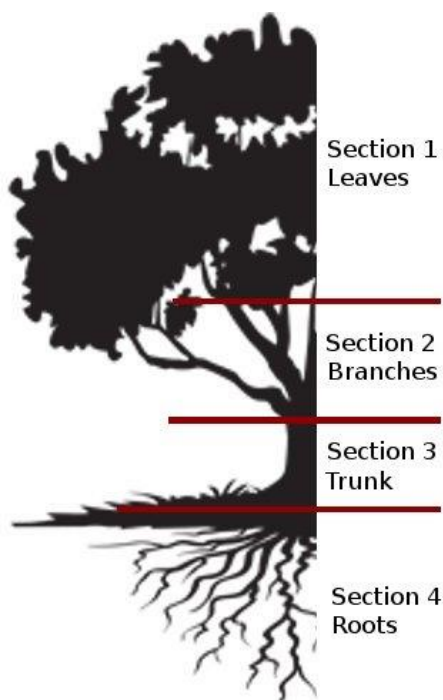
In this example the loss of the herd's ability to defend themselves did not have happen over night, *it progressed slowly over time as one small loss of **freedom** ushered the way for another*. It started with a seemingly insignificant law requiring that *o-n-l-y* the right-front hoof must be shaved dull. Of course this was justified through statistics that showed most deer were right-front leg dominant... soon that paved the way to also require the left-front hoof to be dulled. As the population grew accustomed to having dull front hooves, the law naturally would later demand that *all hooves* must now be dulled. A few years down the road new law surfaced requiring that *o-n-l-y* the tips of the main antler beams must be removed. As the slow progression of laws continued, it would eventually demand, you guessed it, that *both antlers* must be *completely* removed.

In the end this would leave a herd of 3 to 4 generations of deer, young and old, trapped in that valley, outnumbered by predators with no horns, dull hooves, and virtually no way to defend themselves. At that point it was too late for the herd. And in their final moments only the older generation among them could remember what it felt like to be free!

*Again I stress the words of Benjamin Franklin...  
"Any society that would give up essential liberty to obtain a little security  
will deserve neither and lose both."*

I may be one vote but I assure you that I exercise that right as do many people reading this right now. As a matter of fact this past week in early voting I stepped away from the ballot box supporting *all* the candidates that promised to protect our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights.

## Can We Eradicate Gun Violence?



To help solve complex problems I like to picture a Tree and divide that Tree into 4 sections from top to bottom. The top section is the Leaves, the second section is the Branches, third the Trunk, and finally the Roots.

The top section where the Leaves are requires a very *shallow* level of thinking, however, your depth of thought must *exponentially* increase with each lower section.

*Albert Einstein said "We can not solve our problems  
with the same level of thinking that created them."*

Starting at the top and asking the question "why" over and over you work your problems down to the Roots. In doing so you'll find that *each of these sections will require a completely different level of thinking* in your problem-solving ability.

If you're not careful you will expend all of your energy and resources solely in the very top section doing battle in the the Leaves and never resolving anything. This is because the Leaves of our "Trouble Tree" represent all the *effects of the core problem*. *The demand for new restrictive gun laws resides in this Section.*

You will eventually find that the core problem of gun violence is in the Roots. Its identity is **Evil**. As Evil travels it's way up our "Trouble Tree" it presents itself in different ways as it passes through each Section to finally display all of it's *effects* as the Leaves.

Evil is part of Human Nature so we will never be able to eliminate it and are forced to deal with it. It is not something you can legislate away and any attempt to do so you will remove **freedom** from the majority which are good-hearted, law-abiding people.

The closest we can attain solutions is in the Trunk section of our Tree just above the ground. This is where the **freedoms** promised in our **Constitution and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment** reside. This is also where **Constitutional Carry** would reside.

## **Who Is Ultimately Responsible For Our Protection?**

As Lawmakers your responsibility is to protect your citizens, but ultimately, it is up to each one of us to secure our *own* personal safety with good decisions and effective tools. It branches from there to parents protecting children, families protecting families, communities protecting communities, good Samaritans, etc.

Constitutional Carry and the elimination of gun free zones will allow this to happen because the threat of more people with legal guns deter criminals who seek the path of least resistance. When criminals take lives do they not seek to preserve their own? For the few criminals who are not deterred this will provide their fast dispatch saving many lives that would have otherwise been lost.

Let's apply Constitutional Carry scenarios to these mass shootings that sparked this call for public input. The closest real-world example is the West Freeway Church of Christ shooting ( CBS YouTube video <https://youtu.be/WqWibXye6YE> ). The gunman didn't last but **SIX SECONDS!**

Seriously, think about that.

If that were a school shooting where **one** teacher or staff member armed with a good gun ended the carnage in six seconds, *how many of those children would have went home to their parents that night?* Right now they only remain in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Steven Boehm